

Message Text

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13-12

ACTION INT-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3278

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 0078

PASS U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, OTRA, SA, US

SUBJECT: U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY-SAUDI ARABIAN PROJECT

REF: STATE 290221, 290222, 290830, 305290,

1. MESSRS. REINEMUND AND BENTON OF U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS) ARE SCHEDULED TO TRAVEL TO SAUDI ARABIA ABOUT JANUARY 16. MESSRS. MOODY TIDWELL, SOLICITOR'S OFFICE, DEPARTMENT INTERIOR, AND MR. ED GRANT, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, USGS, ARE ALSO SCHEDULED TO TRAVEL TO SAUDI ARABIA ABOUT JANUARY 26.

2. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT NEA/ARP AND NEA/L REVIEW WITH USGS OFFICIALS BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE DEPARTMENT'S LATEST THINKING AND POLICY GUIDANCE ON BOYCOTT MATTERS. DURING DISCUSSION OF PROBLEMS WITH USGS JIDDA OFFICERS, EMBASSY WAS INFORMED THAT DEPARTMENT INTERIOR WOULD PROHIBIT SAUDI (USGS) PURCHASE ORDERS TO VENDORS IN THIRD COUNTRIES (PARA. 2, REFTEL D). EMBASSY UNCERTAIN ABOUT MEANING OF THIS INJUNCTION BUT BELIEVE IT MUST FOLLOW FROM USGS ACTING ON BEHALF OF SAUDI GOVERNMENT (E.G., FILLING OUT PURCHASE ORDER FORMS).

3. THE SPECIALIZED NATURE OF USGS/SAG EQUIPMENT NEEDS APPARENTLY CAN ONLY BE MET BY PURCHASES FROM LIMITED
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NUMBER OF SUPPLIERS, MOSTLY IN U.S. GIVEN SAUDI ADHERENCE

TO ARAB BOYCOTT, IF USGS/SAG UNABLE TO OBTAIN THESE VITAL
ITEMS, IT MAY REALLY AFFECT THE ABILITY OF USGS TO CON-
TINUE TO OPERATE IN SAUDI ARABIA. EMBASSY BELIEVES VALUE
TO USG OF USGS PROGRAM IN SAUDI ARABIA FAR OUTWEIGHS RE-
LATIVELY SMALL COMMERCIAL VALUE OF SUCH PURCHASES.

4. EMBASSY LOOKS FORWARD TO VISIT OF USGS OFFICIALS FOR
ASSISTANCE WITH THIS MOST THORNY PROBLEM.

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